NOSTALGIA

Crowds turn out for Royal visit to Ely and rocket lands at Mepal base

Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit Ely –1987

HUGE crowds turned out to welcome the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh as they arrived in Ely for the special Maundy Service at the Cathedral.

It was only the third time a reigning monarch has been to the city in 700 years and everyone was determined to make the visit an occasion to remember.

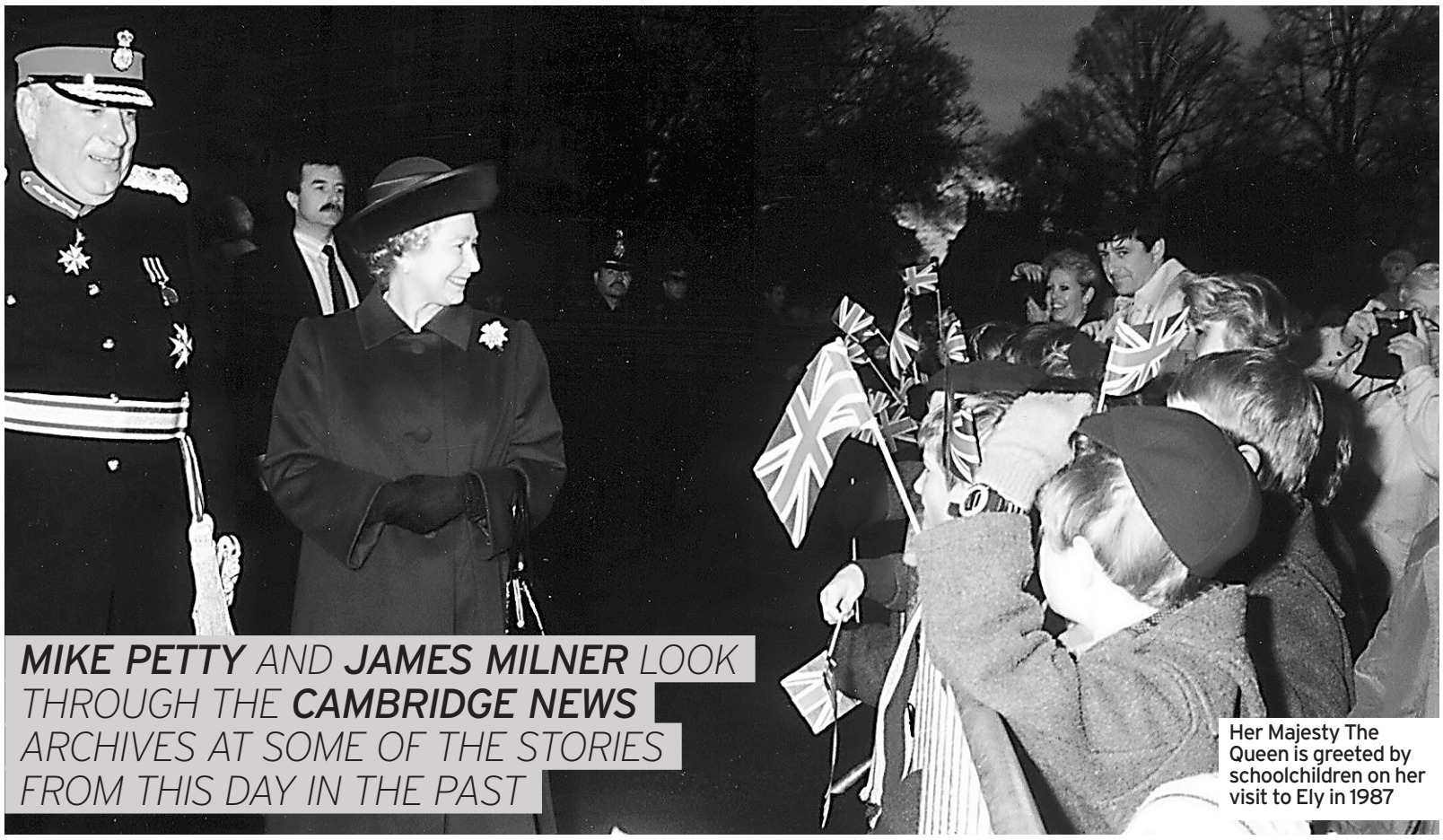
The Royal couple were greeted at the station by officials and drove to the gallery in a glass-topped Rolls-Royce.

Their route along Back Hill was lined with cheering, flag-waving crowds. At the West Door, the Queen was greeted by the Bishop of Ely, the Rt Rev Peter Walker.

Inside the Cathedral capacity congregation of 2,600 representatives from church and civic life in the diocese waited to witness the distribution of the Royal Maundy which the Queen handed out to 122 pensioners – one man and one woman for each year of her age.

It was a memorable day for pupils from St Mary's School in Ely who were chosen as the Children of the Royal Almonry.

After the service, the Royal couple went over to the crowd who had waited patiently in the spring sunshine.



***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST*

Her Majesty The Queen is greeted by schoolchildren on her visit to Ely in 1987

Councillors stand down over bypass row – 1983

A ROW over plans for a bypass at Mepal has led to six of the seven parish councillors refusing to stand for re-election

They are annoyed that the county council has decided to press ahead with a western bypass against the wishes of villagers who claim Mepal will be turned into a cul-de-sac.

An eastern route would be cheaper and help to promote industry on the nearby airfield.

Antiquities of Ye Olde Tea Rooms up for auction – 1964

A TURF-digging tool and a fork used for harvesting were among the Fenland tools bought for the Folk Museum at the sale of antiquities from Vernon Cross's Ye Olde Tea Rooms at Ely.

The curator, Miss Enid Porter, was among the crowd and obtained two Doulton spirit barrels and an 18th-century digester.

Plaster moulds from old Ely houses, an unusual type of frying pan and a 19th-century knife cleaner were also among items purchased.

Viewing items up for sale from Ye Olde Tea Rooms